



May 21, 1999

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Dear Ted,

I have not heard from you for a while, and wondered if perhaps one of your letters did not reach me. The last letter I received from you was item # 48. I want to get an idea of what we should expect from your brother and mother as soon as possible, and have been waiting for you to approve or amend the draft letter regarding permissions.

I received a call from your aunt, [redacted]. We spoke at length. The gist of the conversation was that your cousin [redacted] does not suffer from paranoid schizophrenia. She also stated that your mother tends to exaggerate, and that your aunt assumed exaggeration was responsible for the report of illness during the pre-trial proceedings. She read a few excerpts from documents written by psychiatric professionals that specified post trauma disorder due to head injury and the after-effects of the car accident that occurred during her 26th or 27th year. The document specifically rules out the use of psychotropic medicine, and opines that she suffers from depression – not psychosis. I have asked her to send you the relevant material. It sounded like she might be delayed because of health problems, minor for the most part, but many and varied. I believe that she would allow you to mention the fact that [redacted] is not schizophrenic, which is yet another illustration of the sort of distortions that need to be combated. If she does not get back to you soon, I could get the necessary confirmation of the above to allow you to use it in *Truth versus Lies*.

I spoke at some length with [redacted] last night. She asked my opinion about the best course of action against Waits, who is currently featured in a local television news series about the Unabomber. After many possibilities, I remembered a control technique described by a bartender in the neighborhood: The favored form of persuasion among Mafiosi is gasoline and a match. Here's how it works: First, the thug pours gasoline on the person he is trying to communicate something to, and then he lights a match informing that person that he earnestly desires a change in behavior. A more effective (and legal) variation on the theme would be to communicate to Waits that evidence has been compiled that proves him to be a liar (the Gallagher gasoline), and then request that he cease and desist in exchange for non-release of said evidence (the libel suit match). [redacted] is thinking about it. I do not think a lawsuit is in order. It will only draw more attention to Waits's book and generate sales where there would be none. (The book is not available in New York City, for example.)

Another interesting conversation that you should know about was had with Steve Fischler. I enjoyed our conversation, during which I asked him directly why he was advising against an interview on *60 Minutes* when he knows nothing about the nature of the conversations that have transpired (politely and in a non-adversarial fashion). I then told him about the state of negotiations and the written agreement. He said that it was a good thing if you could get it in writing. As you know, we will be getting it in writing. Also: his main objection to a televised interview with you was that he would have a harder time selling his documentary for a big price at a large venue. I told him that I thought the two projects were so different as to be mutually exclusive. We decided to meet to discuss things further (I will be meeting with him soon). I also told him that it is very important for him to do a serious film about you. If we consider the two media at issue here there is no mutual exclusivity. A documentary is for intelligent viewers and a relatively niche-oriented audience, a serious news program is for a general audience. The latter includes the former, but not vice versa.

Regarding the jacket for your book, I would like to use a page of your own handwriting used as background over which the title and author appear. It could either be a page from the appeal, or a page of actual manuscript from *Truth versus Lies*. If you have manuscript of the latter, I think I would prefer that, but the former might also work since it would resonate with the goals of the endeavor. We are currently working with a page from the appeal.

I look forward to your next letter and hope that this letter finds you well.

Yours,

Beau.

P.S. : I received no instructions with Ishmael's lawyer.

P.P.S. : Have you received the Sp./Eng. dictionary? —